

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 154601

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 11391 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
SECDEF JCS CINCPAC CINCPACFLT COMSEVENTHFLT
CTF SEVEN TWO 13AF CLARK FLT COORD GP NKP
COMNAVINTCOM MAC/SCOTT AFB LONDON TEHRAN
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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11391

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, TH, MOPS, XO

SUBJ: US INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM UTAPAO

REF: BANGKOK 11314

1. I CONVOKED MEETING HERE SATURDAY MORNING TO REVIEW IMMEDIATE
IMPLICATIONS OF RTG DECISION TO REQUEST SUSPENSION OF P-3
RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER INDIAN OCEAN, WITH REAR ADMIRAL
GLINDEMAN FROM FLEET COORDINATING GROUP NKP, DEPCOMUSMACTHAI,
DATT AND EMBASSY.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT RTG DECISION APPLIES ONLY TO FLIGHTS OVER
INDIAN OCEAN FROM UTAPAO. THERE IS NO REASON TO DISCONTINUE
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RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA WHICH CAN BE RELATED
TO OUR CONCERN FOR INDOCHINA, INCLUDING TRACKING OF NARCOTICS-

LADEN TRAWLERS. I RECOMMEND THAT WE MAINTAIN, CONSISTENT WITH VALID OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, NORMAL P-3 PRESENCE AND RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITY OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA AREAS FROM UTAPAO TO KEEP THIS OPTION OPEN AND AVOID ANY UNSEEMLY INDICATION OF PANICKY STANDDOWN.

3. WE WILL SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION REGARDING ACCEPTABILITY TO RTG OF ADMINISTRATIVE, LIAISON, MEDEVAC OR OTHER EMERGENCY FLIGHTS BY P-3 AIRCRAFT BETWEEN UTAPAO AND DIEGO GARCIA AND/OR OTHER INDIAN OCEAN AIRFIELD FACILITIES. IN THE INTERIM NO REPEAT NO SUCH FLIGHTS SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED WITHOUT PRIOR COORDINATION AND APPROVAL FROM EMBASSY BANGKOK.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF MILITARY PLANS TO COMPLY WITH RTG REQUESTS AND ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE COVERAGE OF INDIAN OCEAN AREAS, AS BACKGROUND FOR OUR CONTINUING CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY RTG DECISION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME THAT HE SHARES OUR CONCERN WITH INCREASED SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPING SECURITY BALANCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA; EXCHANGES OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND ESTIMATES WITH RTG SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND STRENGTHENED TO REINFORCE THIS CONCERN, DESPITE CUTOFF OF UTAPAO-BASED RECCE FLIGHTS.
KINTNER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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